

The Village of Biscayne Park Newsletter

History of "the Park"

Ever wonder about the Village's humble beginnings, it's founder, why we have great medians, and what it all has to do with strawberry shortcake? The answers can be found in the local history book, "Miami's Historic Neighborhoods : a history of community" edited by Becky Roper Matkov.

Biscayne Park's Founder: Arthur Mertlow Griffing

In 1921, when Miami was preparing for the soon-to-arrive flood of land speculators, the area that was to become Biscayne Park was unincorporated, undeveloped and for the most part fields of tomatoes belonging to Arthur Mertlow Griffing. Griffing was originally from Norwich, New York and had settled in Florida in 1903 to manage the Little River nursery. He built a large home and established Griffing Tropical Nurseries and Groves in and around a seven-acre site that today is the Colonial Shopping Center along Dixie Highway and 125th Street in North Miami. Griffing was a landscaper for Carl Fisher's Miami Beach projects. By 1917 the horticulturalist changed hats to become a developer.

By the 1920s, Griffing had acquired and began developing land along Dixie Highway north of Miami. The nursery was sold and the land subdivided and named Griffing Biscayne Park Estates. Griffing continued his love of landscaping by carefully planting the area with shrubs and trees so that Biscayne Park Estates resembled a huge botanical garden.

Early in January 1923, Griffing began advertising in the Miami Daily Metropolis and set up a miniature of the Park on the grounds of the Halcyon Hotel on Flagler Street. Prospective buyers were shuttled from downtown Miami to the new "Gateway to Miami." Griffing combined his land sales with his nursery promotions by offering a free strawberry shortcake to potential buyers....Looking for young families to live in his new development, Griffing also produced a safe environment for children to play near their

homes by creating many cul-de-sacs. The well-landscaped streets, medians, and park areas laid out by Griffing set the stage the first homes erected in the development costing between \$4,000 and \$4,500...The strawberry shortcake incentive was upgraded to a mixed box of grapefruits and oranges.

The Log Cabin

...By a vote of its 113 citizens, the Town of Biscayne Park was incorporated on December 31, 1931, and on June 16th, 1933, a state charter was granted, changing the name to the Village of Biscayne Park. ...The Works Progress Administration built a log cabin, a clear and distinct reference to the Depression as well as to the simplicity of the American frontier days. On February 1, 1933, at the height of the Depression, the Federal Emergency Relief Program provided the labor for the Dade County pine construction. William Green, a resident of the Park, as well as a Councilperson, was a regional administrator for the Federal program and was certainly instrumental in the creation of the Park's singular and distinctive building...Actual expenses incurred were a grand total \$247, met by individual donations of \$5 - \$20 and gifts from the Card Club that ranged from \$10 to \$22...In

light of today's multiple million dollar projects, these modest sums seem very quaint, but when held in light of the circumstances in which they occurred during the national depression, they reflect generous and caring residents and a community that was conscientious and carefully controlled. At a special ceremony on January 24th, 1935 the finished Log Cabin was officially turned over to the Village, and to this day has been the center for the daily operations of the Park. Since its creation in the Thirties, it has been the prized symbol of Biscayne Park.



Mayor's Message

John Hornbuckle, Mayor

"A New Year brings new strides and new challenges for Biscayne Park"



Biscayne Park has seen a lot of changes in the year 2006, from recovering from a dreadful hurricane season to ratifying a new charter to a new Village Manager. The

results have been gratifying. Even though we were faced with an extremely tight budget, we were able to finish up in the black for FY 2006! This is due to much effort and belt-tightening and 'going without' by all of our departments and we are most grateful. I would personally like to say thank you to all of our Department Heads, Employees and the Village Manager for such great work this year. We have also been working on becoming more efficient (one example is our waste fee that is now collected through the county, eliminating administrative expense and increasing the recovery percentage for Biscayne Park, while also reducing the number of bills BP residents receive). By working together our community was able to keep high-tension power lines from traversing through Biscayne Park. That is a lot in one year!

Now, we can look ahead and move forward carefully with projects that are needed and necessary. A new Village Administration and Police Building, a proper Public Works Facility are considered necessary, but our enthusiasm must be tempered with proper planning and fiscal forethought. Biscayne Park's tax base relies mostly on Residential Ad Valorem taxes, and as such, has limits (we

must also take into consideration what the new double homestead exemption will mean to the Village). We all want to move forward, but we still need to live within our means, especially as we are still rebuilding our reserves after the hurricanes of last year.

Breaking News: One day after writing this column, we received word from the governor that the final 12 1/2 % of our hurricane expenses will be covered by the State. This means that we will be able to immediately add over \$100,000 to our reserve fund... Good news indeed!

And, other good things are happening, too. We will finally have a sidewalk (and improved drainage) around the entire Recreation Center property for walking, jogging and pushing strollers. The dog park is moving forward and we are working on other needs as well. Things such as additional sidewalks, signage, addressing speeding (a new speed indicator sign is in the works) are all under consideration. We have been implementing standard employee policies and procedures, re-instating the Crime Watch and instituting a "CERT" (Citizens Emergency Response Team) Committee. These are just some of the ideas and initiatives under way.

Finally, we encourage residents to get involved. We are asking for your input, ideas and suggestions on these important issues.

Here are some ideas...a "Citizen of the Year", a Mayors Ball, or an Annual festival of some sort...What do you think? What would you like to see in the Park? How would you like to help make a change for the better? Please call (305-899-8000) or email me (hornbuckle950@comcast.net) with your ideas, comments or concerns.

We really can accomplish things together!

Here's wishing everyone a heartfelt and happy Holiday Season and a healthy New Year!

Warmest regards,
-John
John Hornbuckle, Mayor

Interim Village Manager Frank Spence

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

December 4th will mark the three months that your Village government has been operating under the new Charter. We have made great progress in transforming the Administration into a more professional efficient compliant arm of government, but there is still much to do.



Some of my first actions were the appointment of Ann Harper as the Village Clerk, appointing Interim Police Chief Mitchell Glansberg to the position permanently, and naming Financial Consultant Holly Hughdahl Acting Finance Director.

The first part of this period was spent preparing and presenting the operating budget for the next fiscal year, which went into effect October 1st. Due to the fact that the Village has been operating at a deficit over the past three years, drawing down over \$1 million from reserves to balance the budget, it was necessary to raise the millage from 8.2 to 9.2. Unfortunately, with no commercial property within the Village, residential properties must pay 100% of the ad valorem property taxes. However, we are on the road to financial recovery and stability in that the budget for the fiscal year ending on September 30,

2006, ended in the black, meaning revenues exceeded expenditures, for the first time in three years.

ILLEGAL CONTRACTORS AND NO PERMITS

Residents are warned not to hire illegal contractors or to start any type of construction work without a building permit. This is to protect you from uninsured fly-by-night people that can put you, your family and your property at risk. Plus you and they can be fined up to \$500 for each violation of the County and Village Code for work done without a permit. Please make sure your contractor registers his intended project at Village Hall and gets all the necessary permits.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY - CALL 911

If you see someone driving slowly in your neighborhood, they could be looking for a friend, or, they could be casing a house to see if anyone is at home. Do not hesitate....CALL 911, which goes to the County's Police Dispatcher who will contact a Village Police Officer immediately to check out the suspicious activity. We need your eyes and ears in your neighborhood. That's why Neighborhood Crime Watch is so successful. There's no way police can be everywhere, not even in the biggest departments.

Seasons Greetings!

I WANT TO WISH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU A MOST JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON AND A MOST PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!



Police Beat

A Message from your Chief:



Residential Burglaries Prevention & Education

The Biscayne Park Police Department is intently focused on the mission of

preventing residential burglaries and educating our residents about this disturbing property crime. Our goal is to continue to increase awareness and education as there is a direct correlation between our pro-active approach and a reduced burglary rate. We have solved numerous burglaries by arresting those responsible and have recovered some of the property.

Studies conducted by the United States Department of Justice and other government agencies have identified certain risks factors that make a residence more likely a target of burglary than others. Burglars select their targets based on a number of factors such as; familiarity with the target; occupancy; visibility or surveillability; accessibility; vulnerability or security; and potential rewards. These elements interact, thus visibility and accessibility are very important because the burglar can generally make these assessments from afar. Therefore, based on this information, we know that bushes, shrubbery, privacy fences, walls or other things that obstruct our ability to see the front, sides and rear of a residence contribute to the target being selected. These things also provide concealment for the subject while engaged in committing a crime.

Studies and research also show that houses with poor lighting, secluded

houses, houses with concealing architectural designs, houses that can be entered from the sides or rear, houses near alleys, and houses that have poor security are at special risk.

The same is true for houses that have been burglarized in the past, houses that display signs of wealth and potential rewards such as big screen plasma televisions visible from the street, are also at a higher risk.

Based on the facts and information the Biscayne Park Police Department makes the following recommendations:

1. Have your residence inspected by one of our crime prevention specialists who can provide helpful information on how to make your residence more resistant to burglary.
2. Have adequate lighting around the property when it is dark.
3. Purchase and use a burglar alarm system that is monitored.
4. Avoid shrubbery and bushes that cover windows and doors
5. Avoid having expensive items such as large screen television sets visible from the street.
6. Mark expensive items with your driver license number when possible so that they can be identified if stolen.
7. Avoid having strangers unsupervised on your property.

In addition to these recommendations, please remember that your neighbors can be your best security system. We encourage our residents to participate and establish a neighborhood crime watch program. Your neighbors can and should report any suspicious activity, cars or people at or near your property to the Biscayne Park Police Department promptly so

that we can investigate.

Commission Reports

Commissioner Bob Anderson



As you read this newsletter we are a couple of months into our transition to a new way of governing here in Biscayne Park – a Village Manager/Commission

form of government that will now give us, your commissioners, the opportunity to take on more specific projects that you would like to see accomplished.

One of my main priorities will be to see Crime Watch up and running again. As we are all aware, there has been an unfortunate increase in burglaries throughout all of northeast Miami-Dade County. To the credit of our police officers and Chief Glansberg we have made several arrests in the last few weeks but there's still a lot of work to do and a Citizens Crime Watch group would be a big help.

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to work with Crime Watch. The more eyes and ears we have alerting our police to any suspicious happenings in our community the safer we will be. If you are interested in assisting please call Chief Glansberg.

I will be working with our city manager to see our border with the City of North Miami improved and beautified. I am sure Biscayne Park and North Miami will be able to come up with a plan to landscape our common borders that will benefit all of us.

I have been sending out a copy of the agenda package each month by E-

Mail. If you would like to be included on the list please send me your Name and E-Mail address.

As always – I want to hear from you with any ideas, suggestions or concerns. You can phone Village Hall at 305-899-8000 and leave a message or email me at: banderson@biscayneparkfl.gov

Commissioner “Doc” Morris



We have entered a new era in the history of Biscayne Park. It has been an exciting time for me as well as the Park. When I first was asked to be part of the Charter Committee I felt truly honored.

It was wonderful to be part of such a great group to write a new Charter for Biscayne Park. I have always been for the new Charter and especially for a Village Manager. I feel like I have known our new manager, Frank Spence, for a long time. I guess it is because he has the same feelings and ideas for the Park as I. He truly has been an excellent addition to the Park. I brought him up to speed over lunch one day about Public Works. He has continued with the projects that Joe Fisher and I were working on and has brought some of them up to fruition. I know there was a little apprehension when I took over at Public Works but I feel I left the department in good shape especially with the crew that helped me along. Now as one of your Commissioners under the new Charter I will do my utmost to make the new charter a smooth transition.

I want us, the citizens of Biscayne Park, to take pride in our community. Let us go back to some of the things that first attracted me to the Park some 37 years ago. Let us start taking

more pride in our houses and our medians. If a neighbor is having trouble bringing in their garbage cans, help them out. You may be surprised in that little act of kindness has a way of catching on with others. By keeping our Village clean and neat it will help in increasing the values of our properties and we will be getting more people to want to live here. If someone is having any type of problem please call me and I will either try to solve it or I will try to get them in touch with the appropriate person. One nice thing about being retired is that I can give a lot of time to the Village.

I know there is a perception that there is an increase in crime. The manager and Mitch Glansberg, our Chief of Police, are well aware of this and are taking steps to correct any problem. I have spoken with them, as well as, others about bringing back Crime Watch. They are both in favor of this and I would encourage anyone interested to give them a call.

It has been a privilege to work with Steve Bernard and a group of dedicated volunteers to get out the vote. I hope when everyone reads this we were able to accomplish our mission with the last election. It is not only an honor but a privilege to be able to vote. I will always remember my first time. There are millions of people in the world that would give everything they own for this right.

I know we made a decision to increase garbage fees and raise the millage. This was not an easy decision to make but it had to be done to balance our budget and to get the monies back in the reserves. For the past few years we were in a deficit on our garbage fees and we were taking monies out of the reserves to balance the budget. When I got elected I decided that this had to stop and it had to stop now. I am a firm believer in living within my means and always putting money away for that rainy day. This was the way I was brought up and I carried

those principals with me for my entire adult life.

I want to continue to work with all the commissioners to continue to improve your quality of life. We are here to serve you, the citizen of Biscayne Park.

Commissioner Ted Walker



Wow!!! We slipped by hurricane season without even an honorable mention. Now is a good time to check your supplies and plan your spring pruning. That's Spring, not day before the

storm pruning. Our Emergency management team continues to improve its processes and our C.E.R.T.s are a valuable part of it. Certified Emergency Response Team members (volunteers with valuable training) are important management tools for our team. You can be one. Ask Chief Glansberg or Captain Sanchez how to become a member.

Federal rules require all of our management staff and political officials be certified in a comprehensive international management system. It is known as NIMS (National Incident Management System). Once trained in this process one can assist in any incident anywhere in the country with a minimum of local familiarization. Everyone is on the same page and knows what to expect and what is expected. Most of our staff are now qualified and one other commissioner is certified. It is most important that we meet the mandate, because NO FEDERAL DOLLARS will go to a community that does not meet it. This is important.

Now for the great news. Not only do we have a Village Manager (Frank Spence), but he hit the deck running,

has begun making great headway in bringing our Village paperwork up to specifications, begun solving our negative financial direction and smoothed out our overall day to day operations. In his spare time he has been connecting politically for many of the projects we had in mind. Our staff now has one boss and commissioners are no longer involved in the day to day operations. The speed and short length of the November Commission meeting would be a good example of the result of having a Manager. All the information was provided to the Commissioners and Mr. Spence was available to answer questions before the meeting. The commissioners were prepared and no major discussions were required. We had a very large agenda and were finished in less than two hours! Thank you staff, Mr. Spence and commissioners. Our new job as commissioners is to provide vision and guidance and our Manager will handle the operations. If nothing else were accomplished while serving my term of office, the passing of the charter and hiring our manager would have been sufficient for me.

Happy Holidays and may all your lives be blessed and enriched.

Commissioner Ted A. Walker

Commissioner Kelly Mallette

PROPERTY TAXES....



I am sure by now that all of you have received your tax bill for FY 2006-07 and, if you are anything like me, were somewhat sticker shocked by the increase.

While it has not been widely reported, the Commission raised the millage rate by 1 mill – from 8.2 mills to 9.2 mills. The good news is that Florida law prevents municipali-

ties from raising the millage rate above the 10 mil cap. So, no matter who represents your interests on the Commission, they can only increase your property taxes by another .8 mills.

While all of your commissioners agreed that a millage rate increase was required to meet budgetary demands, there was disagreement regarding the amount of the increase. The city manager recommended the increase from 8.2 to 9.2 mills, and a majority of the commissioners agreed with his recommendation. Unfortunately, Biscayne Park now has one of the highest property tax rates in Miami-Dade County!

While we are on the subject of property taxes, you may be aware that the Florida Legislature, along with our new Governor, have committed to providing some kind of tax relief to Florida homeowners and business owners. They are concerned about increased property tax rates across the state as a result of increases in property values and unchecked government spending. Watch your newspapers for this issue, as it will likely take center stage during the upcoming legislative session.

GOOD NEWS....

On a more positive note, I am pleased to report that the Village ended this year in the black. This is the first time, in several years that the Park did not close out the year in a deficit position. This was made possible by a combination of strict spending constraint and strong financial oversight. Thanks are due to the Village department heads and the Village financial consultant for their part in this effort.

Hopefully, if such financial restraint and discipline continues, I will be able to report some type of tax relief in the future.

IN CLOSING....

I would like to take a moment to remind all of the residents of Biscayne

Park to continue to contact me if you have a question, comment or concern about your government. You can try me at Village Hall, but please, always feel free to call me at home. My number is (305) 895-0981, and I hope you will keep it handy.

Also, my family and I would like to extend our best wishes to you and yours for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah, and, of course, a very happy and healthy New Year.

Commission Meetings

First Thursday of the month at the Ed Burke Recreation Center.

Please check the marquee at 113th Street and NE 6th Ave. for updated information

Permits & Regulations

Permits: A general rule is that any job of an electrical, plumbing, or mechanical nature, whether inside or outside of your home, requires a permit. In addition, roofing, pools, fencing, and most construction and repairs require a permit. There are however a few exceptions - please check with the Building Clerk before beginning any work. Please be certain that your contractor is licensed and insured.

Painting: All exterior painting requires a permit. Three swatches of color to be used must be submitted along with the application for approval.

Garage Sales: A permit is required. The number of sales per year is limited.

Note: Applications for **ALL Permits** can be obtained at the Village Hall (log cabin) during regular business hours and must be submitted for approval before any work can begin.

Important Phone Numbers:

Emergency.....911

Non-Emergency Police Dispatch
305-595-6263

Main Village Phone Number
305-899-8000

Public Works,
305-893-4346
893 NE 109 St

Code Enforcement
305-899-8000 ext. 3

Recreation Department
305-893-3711
1400 NE 9 Ct.

Village Hall Hours
640 NE 114 St.
9am-4pm (M-W-F)
9am-6 (T, TH)



Get Involved in Your Village!

The following committees and advisory boards always seeks new, dedicated members. Be part of the solution. Call Village Hall for more details.

Median Review: The committee that provides oversight to the Park's pride and joy, its medians.

Planning & Zoning: Want to paint you house hot pink and put plastic flamingos on your front lawn? This Committee's for you!

Code Enforcement: Mad that your next door neighbor painting his house hot pink with plastic flamingos on the front lawn? This Committee's for you.

Keep Your Business in the Park!

Piano Lessons

Good, patient, knowledgeable, experienced, reputable teacher - right here in Biscayne Park! Kids and adults. Classical, jazz, blues. Beginners through advanced, all are welcome.

Bill Gordon 305-899-6302

Carol Stuhmer, LMT, MA#24491
305-490-0106



CranioSacral ◆ Somato Emotional Release
Visceral Manipulation ◆ Lymphatic Drainage
NeuroMuscularTherapy ◆ Thai ◆ Swedish
Pregnancy & Infant Massage



In Home: Biscayne Park, N Miami, MiamiShores

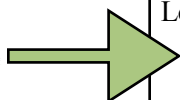
Locations: 4505 W Flagler St, Miami & N Miami Office Available ◆
Member: FSMTA, AMTA, IAHP

PARKER REALTY
Joann J. Parker

625 Ne 123rd St
North Miami, FL 33161

(305) 893-3080

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE



Message From Your Public Works Department

IMPORTANT DATES:

Public Works will be CLOSED and there will be no trash/garbage pick-ups on the following days in observance of national holidays, **Monday December 25th, and Monday January 1st.**

Trash and garbage will be collected the next business day after the holiday.

THERE WILL BE NO SPECIAL PICK-UPS: December 22nd thru January 2nd.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UPS: Starting January 3rd thru January 12th Public Works will be picking up and chipping real Christmas Trees. All ornaments, lights and tinsels, must be removed for this recycling.

FOR SPECIAL PICKS: If you are discarding items such as furniture, appliances, or over 2 cubic yards of debris please call Public Works at 305-893-4346, for a special pick-up date before placing those items out for pick-up. Additional fees will be charged, as the Village must pay more to dispose of those items

“COURTESY” REMINDERS:

1. Garbage cans, trash receptacles, and recycling bins must be placed behind the face of the building and screened from view, except when properly placed out for pick up. Garbage or trash receptacles should be no larger than 30 gal capacity, as per code. Trash is limited to 2 cubic yards.
2. If you hire a contractor (such as tree trimmer) they are responsible for removing their debris. The Public Works Department cannot pickup construction materials. Please arrange with your contractor(s) for removal. The swale areas and alleyways are the property owners responsibility-please keep them trimmed and clean.
3. Placing construction materials or equipment, unwanted goods, garbage/trash, or unapproved plants in the medians is inconsiderate, selfish, and illegal. Violators may be cited.
4. Public Works and the Police Department are trying to keep up and improve the medians. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK OR DRIVE ACROSS MEDIANS, VIOLATORS MAY BE CITED.**
5. Never place or pour foreign liquids or debris in Stormwater Drains. The Village's Stormwater system is not on sewers.

We can be reached at: 305-893-4346

Public Works Director Joseph Fisher

Public Works Assist Director Bernard Pratt

Public Works Supervisor Charles Touchstone-Sanitation

Public Works Supervisor Tim Chestnut-Buildings & Parks

Public Works Supervisor John Jenkins-Grounds & Roadways

PUBLIC WORKS FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK....

As always, your Public Works Department is working hard with up keeping the daily work in the Village, as well as overseeing all the special projects.

We recently re-opened Griffin Blvd and permanently closed 121st Street NE 5th Ave. (west) with an extended median.

11 Pallets of sod and 12 yards of dirt were planted at the Recreation Center area to finally finish the damaged areas from Hurricanes of the 2005 season. This project was not covered by FEMA.

20 of 40 Oak Trees had already been planted. The remaining balance will be in by the end of December 2006. These were replacement trees funded by a State Forestry Grant.

A new stretch of sidewalk and parallel parking connecting to the Nomi Bus Stop across the front of the Recreation Center has been completed. Sidewalks will eventually be installed around the Recreation Center and Field.

Phase II of the Stormwater project has started. This will include NE 113th Street from 9th Ave to 10th Ave and NE 9th Court from 113th Street to 111th Street.

Last but not least, from the Public Works family to your families, Happy Holiday and a Joyous New Year.

Projects Underway:



New sidewalks and Parallel Parking at Recreation Center



1 of 40 new Oak Trees being planted thru a Forestry Grant



Road closure at Northeast 5th Ave and 121st Street



The beginning stage of Phase II of the Stormwater Project.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Recreation Department invites you to attend
the 3rd Annual Biscayne Park



WINTER RECESS CAMP!

For Kids who Wanna Have Fun!

Children from five to thirteen years of age are welcome to participate.

They will enjoy fun-filled days of field trips, arts and crafts, movies, sports and silly games!

Dates: December 22, 26, 27, 28, and 29,
2006
January 2, 3, 4, and 5, 2007

There will be no camp on December 25th
and January 1st.

Hours: 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Fees: Resident- \$15.00 per day, per child
Non-Resident- \$20.00 per day per
child

Registration will begin on Monday December 11th, at the Recreation Center.

Winter Festival

Ed Burke Recreation Center
11400 NE 9th Court Phone: 893-3711

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 9, 2006

11:30A.M. TO 2:30P.M.

**BBQ LUNCH SERVED FROM
11:30AM TO 1:30PM**

One time serving of BBQ Chicken, Hamburger and/or Hot Dog
served with baked beans and a choice of
potato salad or coleslaw.
Includes a beverage choice of fruit punch,
lemonade or iced tea

BBQ TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE OR ON FESTIVAL DAY

AT THE RECREATION CENTER OFFICE

ADULT PORTION (10 years and older): \$6.00
CHILD PORTION (4 to 9 years of age): \$ 4.00
CHILD PORTION (3 years and younger): \$1.00

*** FREE * FREE * FREE ***
ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

AMUSEMENT RIDES ~ FACE PAINTER ~ ESPI THE CLOWN
STROLLING MAGICIAN ~ BALLOON ARTIST
FIELD GAMES MASTER ~ COSMOTOLOGIST~ LIVE MUSIC ~ DJ
BISCAYNE PARK POLICE SPONSORED CHILD FINGERPRINTING

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

PAX Programs

Your Source for Understanding Men and Women

Why do they do that?!?

Have you ever been frustrated by the opposite sex?

This **8-week** series will cover 12 topics leading you to a better understanding of the differences between men & women that can either lead to serious breakdowns in relationships—or . . . can cause your relationships to thrive.

Women, imagine . . .

really understanding men and knowing how to communicate with them.
appreciating men and yourself more.
being fulfilled and satisfied in your relationships with all the men in your life.

Men, imagine . . .

Being validated for the unique and amazing being you are.
Learning how to win with your partner and other women in your life.
Understanding the instinctual things women do that frustrate you.

**Everyone, imagine . . .
that your relationships with each other are transformed forever.**

Cost: FREE! (\$250 Value)

When: Saturday, 9:30 am to 11am; Tuesday, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: Biscayne Park Recreation Center

Dates: December 2 ~ December 12 & 19 ~ January 6, 13, 20, 27 ~ February 3 & 10

Just in time for the holidays! Repair and amage relationship or enhance a good one with new & useful information.

For directions or to R.S.V.P. for the series, contact Penny Phillips at 786.556.2639 or pennylane.0411@yahoo.com

Join us as we unravel the mysteries of "Why did they do that?"

These classes are created and facilitated by Penny Phillips. Topics established through PAX Programs, Inc. Both Penny and PAX are committed to creating partnerships that thrive between males and females in every area of life. For more information on PAX Programs, please visit their website: www.understandmen.com



Village Dog Park Initiative

Over the past year and half, a group of residents have been exploring the feasibility of a proposed dog park in the Village. There has been initial approval for this new amenity and the resident committee seeks assistance in raising necessary funds for the project.

Common Questions/Concerns

How does a dog park work?

Very well! Your basic dog park is just a large enclosed space that provides a safe environment for the dogs. In this controlled, safe, and enjoyable environment the dogs can play and play and play.

What keeps all the dogs in a dog park from fighting?

What keeps a person who passes someone on the street from fighting? Socialization! Dogs who frequent dog parks become very socialized. They enjoy meeting new dogs and playing with their dog friends — yes, they do make friends. Although a disagreement between dogs can occur from time to time, they are quite rare under normal circumstances. A dog park is a friendly environment.

The Dog Park Committee will proactively develop safeguards to protect dog owners and residents from aggressive behavior from a slight minority of dogs.

What kind of people come to a dog park?

There is only one kind of person who comes to a dog park — the person who loves his or her dog, wants the animal to be well socialized and properly exercised, and is willing to dedicate enough time to their pet to ensure its health and well-being.

You will meet people from all walks of life, all ages, and from all over the Village. In this environment, since you will likely see the same people on a regular basis, you will meet and get to know your neighbors! You might even make some new friends, too! It's easy to talk to people at a dog park because there is always something interesting to talk about - dogs, their antics, and behavior.

This is the principle motivation for the Dog Park amongst Dog Park advocates, build a sense of community in the Village.



Where is it proposed to be sited?

The location under consideration a vacant parcel of land near the canal and 6th Ave. We hope this site will be the location that is mutually beneficial for the community, dog lovers, and neighbors.

A word about dog poop?

The experience of dog parks is that people are relatively vigilant about cleaning up after their pooch. The dog park committee will have volunteers to patrol the dog park on a regular basis to “tidy up”. Dog poop bags will be available at the site.

How will it be paid for?

We hope to pay for it through donations and corporate sponsorships. We will surely apply for grants as well.

Will there be rules?

Yes. Those rules will be posted at the park entrance, and if we implement a membership policy for the park, people will have to agree to follow those rules.

Are Dog Parks loud?

No. Dogs often bark because they can't get what they want. However, dogs in a dog park ARE getting exactly what they want. Dogs playing in open parks tend not to bark as a result.

We invite all Village dog lovers and even non-dog owners to get involved in our efforts.

If you would like to receive regular e-mail updates from us, please send an e-mail to John at: iseinhaiti@yahoo.com or call 305-895-7386.



DON'T FORGET... THE BOOKMOBILE!

The Dade County Public Library Bookmobile stops in front of the recreation center every Friday from 4:00 to 5:00p.m. Its purpose is to provide easier library access to area residents. We wish to encourage everyone to use this service as much as possible in order to assure its continued stops to our village.

Keep Your Business in the Park!



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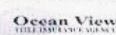
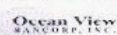
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